



MUSIC: Iggy Pop - The Passenger



standuponit
 standuponit

<https://standuponit.livejournal.com/2010-05-02> 09:22:00

The benefits of lateralization. (<https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//www.newscientist.com/article/mg20627581.600-southpaws-the-evolution-of-handedness.html>)

As a left-handed person who wound up functionally ambidextrous due to educational fiat, I find this particularly interesting.



This looks like a good idea.

...

This.


...

Little guy's not bad.

Gotta teach RHex to smear.

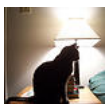
16 comments



 ladycelia

[May 2 2010, 13:59:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm naturally (sort of) ambidextrous. When I say sort of, it's because there are some functions that I do exclusively with one hand instead of the other, but both hand have a set of exclusive functions. And there are a few things that I can do easily with either hand. I write and pick up a fork left handed. I throw right handed (but I can get a bit more accuracy with my left, just not as much power). I will pick up a needle with my right hand, but if it gets tired simply switch to my left (or at least I used to--the dominant hand for specific tasks has become more ingrained with age). When I was a kid, and my grandmother attempted to teach me to crochet, I'd start with my right hand and attempt to switch to left, but you can't do that with crochet--you have to use one or the other, and I never managed to learn the craft at all until adulthood, when the right hand took dominance for the function. Knitting, I can only do 'continental' where the yarn is controlled by the left hand and the needle that actually does the moving is in the right. It's an odd set of rules that my body seems to have. Oh, and I can type on two keyboards at once, one hand each. Not as fast as I can type on one keyboard, but fast enough to get a reasonable amount of work done. Used to come in handy when writing simple code.




 txanne

[May 2 2010, 14:30:24 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Beep! You have pushed a button!

Continental isn't lefthanded knitting. It's only lefthanded knitting if the moving needle is in your left hand. I do lefty Continental with the yarn in my right hand. But I can knit English, with the yarn in my right hand and the moving needle also in my right hand, because I know what it's supposed to look like when I'm doing it properly, i.e. lefty.



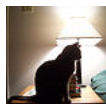
 [ladycelia](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:31:17 UTC](#)

Edited: May 2 2010, 14:32:35 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

Perhaps I wasn't clear. I didn't say it was lefthanded knitting--I was implying it was more ambidextrous knitting, as it involves both hands near equally.



 [txanne](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:35:04 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I repeat, this is a button about which I'm irrational, having been told by righties since I learned how to knit that im doin it rong. You're not doing that, but I feel the need to warn you that I can't stop arguing about this.

Continental knitting doesn't involve the yarn-holding hand equally. It's a feeder mechanism and that's all it is. The moving needle is the one that does all the work.



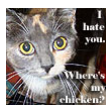
 [batwrangler](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:11:52 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I'm sorry about the educational fiat -- it must have made things miserable for you. (I always wanted to be ambidextrous but never quite managed it.)

The article is really cool and has me wondering if it might help to offer food on the right side of snakes who are being finicky about their defrosted dinners. :)



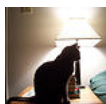
 [standuponit](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:16:43 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Well, now I can write backward with my left hand, so it's not all bad.

You know, it might. If everything is lateralized--



 [txanne](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:28:16 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I'm utterly lefthanded, and I can mirror-write with my right hand. When I try to regular-write with my right hand, it looks like the writing of people who became literate as adults.

 [talkswithwind](#)

[May 2 2010, 16:47:13 UTC](#)


[COLLAPSE](#)

According to my parents, When I started to write, I started with my left hand and then switched to my right mid-page. Apparently this was Too Weird for my teachers and they told me to pick one, so I picked the one I started with. I vaguely remember doing this; I think my reasoning was to either try both and see what I liked, or try and write as well with both hands.

Anyway... around about... 7th grade I decided to give mirror writing with my right hand a try! And lo, I was good at it.

I also learned that doing so gave me temporary dyslexia, which was not fun, so I stopped. If I ever take the time to learn a right-to-left language this might bite me in the butt, but those happily tend to involve different alphabets. That might provide enough mental anchor to keep the letters from wandering about.



 [ladycelia](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:42:00 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

When I had trouble with my boa and defrosted rats, I warmed them up a bit and then kind of wiggled them in front of him with a pair of tongs.



 [batwrangler](#)

[May 2 2010, 14:53:12 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Yup, getting the food very, very warm and wiggling works; I'm just wondering if it would work better/faster if I pay attention to which eye I'm presenting the food to -- the article implies that reptiles in general are more reactive to prey seen with their right eyes and even suggests people make their own field observations. :)

 [ashnistrke](#)

[May 2 2010, 18:02:31 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I was thinking the same thing. Ours has rejected the last 3 rats; I'll give it a try and report back.



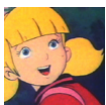
 [beccastareyes](#)


[May 2 2010, 14:49:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I remember hearing a story about Vanna White, who is a righty but crochets like a lefty*, because she learned from a left handed woman. Sometimes two-handed tasks make me wonder why we use certain hands for it. For example, I hold a Guitar Hero controller like a lefty, because it seemed more obvious to have the buttons near my dominant hand where I'd need precision, and use my left hand for the 'simpler' task of strumming. Especially odd since I played strings as a kid, so I should have picked up the posture.

* Hook in left hand, right hand controls yarn tension.

Deleted comment



 [jennygadget](#)

[May 2 2010, 16:22:06 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm very right handed, but I'm also left-footed* (don't ask, I don't know what that's about) and it definitely gave me an advantage in soccer. It wasn't quite like what you are describing because soccer players are drilled from an early age to kick with both feet; but it definitely made a difference.

* I wonder if this is related to the fact that I still, to this day, have to stop and think about what is right and what is left.



 [rekre8](#)

[May 3 2010, 04:38:39 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

+1 - I tell folks I'm borderline dyslexic, which is amusing with the amount I read, because I panic when given left/right directions (east/west makes more sense!), read just as well upside down, and swap handedness depending on the task (though I'm mostly a right-writer, I mouse either, bat lefty, and am both-footed from 20+ years of soccer).



 [talkswithwind](#)

[May 2 2010, 17:06:04 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Heh, heh, heh.

I, also, started fencing as a lefty. And yeah, it *absolutely* gave me an advantage at the lower rungs. Hell, even other lefties didn't know WTF to do with me. This gave me enough encouragement to keep with the sport through college. Even at the mid levels you find fencers who aren't that good versus lefties, probably because there aren't any or are very few in their club, which is generally good for a few points. It's lethal in the round-robin rounds, and a slight advantage in the direct-eliminations rounds since those go to 15 points and that's enough to learn your opponent and react effectively.

And then there are those who look at lefties and chortle. For they have focused on us, and know our weaknesses. Damn them all.

I spent three years after college with a group focusing on the old fight manuals from the 1400-1650 era. So, long and short swords, two handers a time or two, rapiers, and schlagers. That broke me of a lot of bad sport-fencing habits. Those manuals didn't give word one to lefties, so it took some improv on our part to figure out how to adapt. Or in some cases, I just went righty so I could do the drills without damaging people. That's where I learned that sword-and-shield is mostly pointless as a lefty, your shields are on the same side.

More recently I've been playing around with boffer combat (padded sticks, some SCA and most LARPs use them). I've learned that I'm pretty darned good with two weapons, and can attack with either side. Most other two-weapon players always sweep with one hand and attack with the other.

But fencing saber is still my first love. If it weren't for some physical conditions that prevent me from competing, I'd still be doing it.



 [kayjayoh](#)

[May 2 2010, 17:29:51 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I am strongly right handed, so much so that I can't even stand to wear rings on my right hand.

I am right-eye dominant (which is not aligned with handedness). However, I am left-eared. AFAlK, my hearing is fine in both ears, but I can't stand putting a phone to the right ear. I will go to ridiculous lengths to put the receiver to my left ear, even when it is more awkward.

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